

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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REV. DR. JOHN R. DECKENBACK

CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Conference Minister/CEO of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ (with responsibilities similar to those of a bishop) for 185 congregations and 450 clergy.

SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE

1992 - present

United Church of Christ, Central Atlantic Conference
Conference Minister **Baltimore, MD**

Work with a staff of five Associate Conference Ministers on behalf of churches and clergy in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Provide staff support for a 30 member Board of Directors and its numerous committees. Overall administration of the Conference and its sub-groups.

Twice "loaned" as Acting Executive of the Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Board.

Frequently represent the United Church of Christ before federal and state governmental bodies.

1972-1992

United Church of Christ, Northern California Conference
Associate Conference Minister **San Francisco, CA**

Overall responsibility for administration and social justice activities of the Conference. Assigned to work with ecumenical partners on criminal justice activities through the Joint Strategy and Action Commission (JSAC-an ecumenical urban ministry). Initiated JSAC's efforts to call for

a moratorium on prison and jail construction. Conducted workshops on the history of prison/jail construction, the death penalty and other criminal justice issues. Related to prison chaplains and other criminal justice professionals.

"Loaned" by the Conference to the National Council of Churches to work in Washington, D.C. for passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment bill, 1978.

Appointed by the Carter Administration as a member of the West Coast and National Commissions examining the future of voluntary service in the US.

Co-founder Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Board which now provides property/liability insurance to 2400 churches and institutions nationwide.

EDUCATION

1968 Whitworth University Spokane, Wa

Bachelor of Arts: Sociology/American History

Assistant Coach Varsity Baseball (1968)

Varsity football offensive lineman (1964-1967)

Senior internship: Spokane Juvenile Detention Center

1972 Pacific School of Religion Berkeley, Ca

Master of Divinity

Editor, student newspaper

President, student government (two terms)

Board of Trustees, student representative

Governance Commission, student representative

Presidential Search Committee, student representative

1991

Pacific School of Religion

Berkeley, Ca

Doctor of Ministry

Thesis:

**CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL: THE APPLICATION OF
CHURCH-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TECHNIQUES**

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ordination

Ordained into the Christian ministry by the Los Angeles Association of the Southern California Conference, United Church of Christ, July 1972.

Current Board/committee memberships:

International Relief and Development, Arlington, VA. (an NGO administering humanitarian relief on behalf of USAID and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

United Ministries, Baltimore, MD. (a non-profit transitional housing program for men coming out of prison and/or rehab programs)

United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH.

Major Gifts Committee, United Church of Christ (chair)

Office of Communication, Board of Directors

Council of Conference Ministers, Cabinet

Past Board/committee memberships

Menlo Park (CA) City Schools Transportation Committee

Lancaster Theological Seminary (PA), Board of Trustees, (named trustee emeritus in 2007)

Organize Training Center, Board of Directors, San Francisco, CA.

United Church of Christ

Council of Conference Ministers (chair)

Insurance Board (chair and President)

Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors

Executive Council (principle governing body of church)

Financial Development Committee (chair)

Office of Church in Society Board of Directors

Finance Committee (chair)

Hobbies/travels

Traveled extensively in the former Soviet Union, Germany, Italy, Central America and the Philippines.

Recent travels have been to Central America, South Africa, Israel, Palestine, Germany, Spain, Jordan and Iraq.

January 2008, visited humanitarian relief efforts among refugees in Iraq and Jordan as an International Relief and Development (IRD) board member.

Also enjoy jogging, wood working and vegetable gardening.

Family

Married to the Rev. Carolyn L. Roberts, pastor of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley, Germantown, MD. Residence: in Frederick, MD. Two grown sons.